

## REPORT

*Of the Committee of Claims on the petition of Giffin and Hoag.*

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JANUARY 9, 1824.

Read, and, with a bill for their relief, committed to a committee of the whole House to-morrow.

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The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of David Giffin and Samuel Hoag,

### REPORT:

That the petitioners represent, that the army under command of General Wilkinson, when descending the St. Lawrence river, in the month November, 1813, landed on the evening of the 5th day of said month, and encamped on their farms during the night, and remained part of the following day; during which time, the fencing on their farms was used by the troops for fuel, to the value of seventy-five dollars on each farm, for which they ask payment.

In support of their claim, they produce two certificates, signed Thomas J. Davis, who it seems was appointed by Robert Swartwout, then quartermaster general, to estimate the value of the fencing thus burned by the troops; which represents the value thereof at \$ 75 on each farm: also, a certificate signed J. G. Swift, stating, among other things, that said fencing was necessarily used by said troops, as fuel to cook, and to warm the troops; also a certificate signed Robert Swartwout, late quartermaster general, stating, that the appraisement made by Thomas J. Davis of damage done on the farms of Giffin and Hoag, was by his appointment; also, a certificate of General Jacob Brown, stating, that fences to a considerable extent were consumed for fuel, by the troops on the farms of said Giffin and Hoag, at the time stated by them, but says nothing as to the necessity of the fencing being thus consumed, nor of its value.

From the testimony accompanying this case, the committee have no doubt the fencing of the claimants was destroyed by the troops to considerable extent; and, from the certificates of Gen. Swift and Gen. Swartwout, it would seem, that the destruction must have been necessary; yet there are circumstances attending this claim, which cast a shade of suspicion on it, which the committee presume will be removed before a final decision is had on it; they therefore report a bill for its payment.

